

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated September 27, 2005 has been received and duly noted. Applicant respectfully submits that there are significant differences between the pending claims and the technology disclosed in the '796 Patent.

As recited in Claim 1, the command circuit includes a fuse opening in response to the command signal when firing a selected first gun and activating a switch for subsequently firing a second selected gun. Support for the amended claim language is found at page 14, commencing at line 5. This is in stark contrast to Boop, wherein a mechanical switch creates a safety type short circuit, and does not respond to a command signal for firing a selected first gun. In the alternative discussed at column 8, commencing at line 45, Boop discloses a fuse across terminals 88, 90. Boop nevertheless relies upon a pressure wave generated upon the firing of the gun to "arm" the gun by moving switch section 70 for firing the next selected gun. The Boop fuse does not open in response to a command signal for firing one gun, and opening the fuse in Boop does not activate a switch for subsequently firing another gun. The fuse between terminals 88, 90 may provide additional or backup protection to prevent inadvertent firing, but Boop does not disclose or suggest a fuse opening in response to the command signal when firing a gun. Boop also does not teach that the opening of this fuse activates a switch for subsequently firing another gun.


With respect to dependent Claim 3, Boop does not disclose or suggest a command circuit which is a solid state circuit. To the contrary, various

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components of the Boop circuit, including the rod 126 which is essential for operating the Boop device, is not part of a solid state circuit. High reliability can thus be achieved by providing the solid state circuit, as recited in Claim 3. With respect to dependent Claim 6, Boop does not teach a combination of a feed-through wire from the command circuit to each gun to provide a detonating current to fire the gun, in combination with a control wire which controls the state of a solid state switch within the command circuit. With respect to dependent Claim 7, the opening of the Boop fuse does not change a reference voltage in one or more switching elements, as recited in Claim 7. The features discussed in this paragraph are also set forth in dependent Claims 10, 12, 13, and 18.

In view of the above, early allowance of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on January 11, 2006.


Khristine McNeil